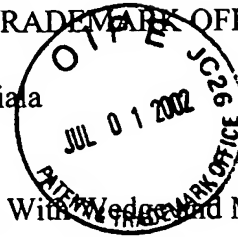


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ORIGINALLY FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Timothy M. Bronson and Brian V. Fiala  
Serial Number: 10/044,108  
Date Filed: January 11, 2002  
Title: Valley Truss Uplift Resistance Strap With Wedge and Method of Use  
Examiner: --unknown--  
Group Art Unit: 3635



June 24, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.115(a)

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 22 2002  
**GROUP 3600**

Dear Commissioner:

A recent review of the utility patent application paperwork filed herein on January 11, 2002 for a Valley Truss Uplift Resistance Strap invention, has revealed that the first page of the original Specification does not appear to have included a reference to the U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/266,762 for the same subject matter, filed by the same applicants on February 6, 2001. Since the applicants would like to claim benefit in the above-referenced utility patent application for the February 6, 2001 filing date of their U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/266,762, a Preliminary Amendment requesting such benefit is being filed herein with a copy of the Filing Receipt for U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/266,762, a marked-up copy of page 1 of the Specification showing the underlined addition of a reference to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/266,762, and a clean copy of page 1 of the Specification showing the addition of a reference to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/266,762 without underline marking. U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/266,762 was co-pending at the time that the instant utility patent application was filed. If for any reason additional copies of any of the